

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Claim 1 was objected to as reciting the incorrect SEQ ID NO. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's notice of this inadvertent error and have amended Claim 1 to recite SEQ ID NO:3, rather than SEQ ID NO:2. More than sufficient support is provided throughout the application for this amendment and no new matter is introduced.

The Claims Meet the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected the Claims as allegedly being indefinite for the recitation of "consisting essentially of." While Applicant must respectfully disagree, Claim 1 has been amended to remove this recitation and more clearly describe the GG36 variant sequence. Applicant believes that the Claims are definite and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Claims are Unobvious

Claims 1-3 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly unobvious over Estell *et al.* (USPN 7,332,320) and Roggen *et al.* (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0148059).

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Estell *et al.* nor Roggen *et al.* teach the variants presently claimed. Estell *et al.* teaches subtilisin substitutions that provide subtilisin variants with altered immunogenicity. There is nothing in Estell *et al.* that would lead one of skill in the art to produce the presently claimed variants that have protease activity in detergents and are thermostable. Estell *et al.* describe the immunogenicity of variant proteases and further mention that some mutations may modulate stability (including N218S; *see, e.g.*, Example 6). However, Estell *et al.* do not describe a protease variant comprising a combination of the V26T or V26S substitution with the N218S substitution in a GG36 protease that exhibits wash performance and increased thermostability compared to GG36.

Roggen *et al.* do not cure the deficiencies of Estell *et al.* to render the presently claimed variants obvious. As with Estell *et al.*, Roggen *et al.* teach substitutions that produce altered immunogenicity, not proteases that have wash performance and increased thermostability as compared to GG36. As there is no teaching, suggestion, nor guidance in either of these references to produce GG36 variants as presently claimed, Applicant

respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is unobvious over the cited art and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is fully in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present application he is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Kamrin T. MacKnight/
Kamrin T. MacKnight
Reg. No. 38,230

Customer No. 05100
Danisco US Inc.
925 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1013
Tel.: (650) 846-7500
Fax: (650) 845-6504